Informer Sues

SAN FRANCISCO — Mafia informer Gerald Zelmanowitz came out of hiding from the underworld to sue the federal government over his tax problems, and has won at least a partial victory.

U.S. District Court Judge Spencer Williams ruled that Zelmanowitz need not pay a multi-million-dollar tax liability, but he did not order the federal government to refund $416,558 Zelmanowitz claimed was illegally seized as equalization tax and other taxes.

The judge instead ordered a portion, about $100,000, returned to Zelmanowitz after the governmentl calculates some additional back income taxes.

Zelmanowitz testified in 1970 against Mafia figure Ancelo de Carlo in New Jersey and then changed his identity to Paul Maris and became a San Francisco dress manufacturer. This cover was blown and he has since been given a new identity.

From staff reports and news dispatches

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